

Rob Sanders Detailed Bio

Rob Sanders is a teacher who writes and a writer who teaches. He is known for his funny and fierce fiction and nonfiction picture books and is recognized as one of the pioneers in the arena of LGBTQIA+ literary nonfiction picture books. Rob's nonfiction books continue to break new ground, including the first picture books about the Pride Flag, the Stonewall Uprising, a transgender Civil War soldier, a gay presidential candidate, and the first gay marriage in America. His work also introduces readers to heroes of the LGBTQIA+ community—from Harvey Milk to Gilbert Baker, from Cleve Jones to Bayard Rustin, and more. His fiction explores friendship, relationships, standing up for others, and being allies. His 2021 releases include *TWO GROOMS ON A CAKE: THE STORY OF AMERICA'S FIRST GAY WEDDING* illustrated by Robbie Cathro (Little Bee Books) and *STITCH BY STITCH: CLEVE JONES AND THE AIDS MEMORIAL QUILT* illustrated by Jamey Christoph (Magination Press), which has received starred reviews from Kirkus and School Library Journal.

Rob will release three titles in 2022. *BLOOD BROTHERS* (Reycraft Books), his first middle grade novel, written in powerful, raw verse releases in Spring 2022 followed by *THE MOM WHO STARTED A MOVEMENT: JEANNE MANFORD, CO-FOUNDER OF PFLAG* illustrated by Sam Kalda (Magination Press), and *SONG FOR THE UNSUNG: BAYARD RUSTIN, THE MAN BEHIND THE MARCH ON WASHINGTON* co-authored with Carole Boston Weatherford and illustrated by Byron McCray (Henry Holt Books for Young Readers).

A native of Springfield, Missouri, Rob has lived in Texas, Alabama, and Tennessee. After earning a B.S. in Elementary Education and a Master's Degree in Religious Education, Rob worked for fifteen years in children's religious educational publishing as a writer, educational consultant, trainer, editor, editorial group manager, and product developer.

In 2006, Rob moved to Florida and began working as an elementary school teacher. Soon he was serving as a district writing trainer and resource teacher. But most of the time he could be found in fourth grade classrooms teaching students about books and words and reading and writing. He took early retirement in December 2020 to focus on his writing career. Since 2012 he has published 14 books with five more slated for release.

And Rob pays it forward. He serves as co-regional advisor for SCBWI Florida and is a frequent speaker, teacher, mentor, coach, and critiquer.

Rob is represented by Rubin Pfeffer.

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